

SENATE BILL 2797

By Akbari

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 9; Title 68 and Title 71, relative to funds from
the temporary assistance for needy families
(TANF) program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 1, is amended by adding
the following as a new part:

71-1-301. Part definitions.

As used in this part:

(1) "Home visiting services" includes routine screening for child
wellbeing, education to caregivers to prevent child maltreatment and abuse,
maternal depression screening, tobacco cessation resources and support, school
readiness, adverse childhood experiences (ACES) mitigation, and other related
support; and

(2) "Telehealth" means the use of real-time audio, video, or other
electronic media and telecommunications technologies that enable interaction
between the healthcare provider and the patient for the purpose of diagnosis,
consultation, or treatment of a patient in another location where there may be no
in-person exchange.

**71-1-302. Reserve of funds from the temporary assistance for needy families
(TANF) program.**

(a) The department of human services shall maintain a reserve of funds from the
temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program in an amount as determined
appropriate by the comptroller of the treasury.

(b) The department of human services shall annually disclose in the department's budget documents presented to and approved by the general assembly the reserve amount of funds from the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program maintained pursuant to subsection (a), including any amount in the reserve over the amount required by subsection (a).

71-1-303. Proportional allotment of funds from the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program to counties.

(a) The department of human services shall annually spend or dedicate one hundred percent (100%) of all available funds from the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program that are not allocated to the department's administrative costs and that are not part of the reserve as described in § 71-1-302.

(b) The department of human services shall spend and allocate funds from the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program that are not part of the reserve or administrative costs as described in § 71-1-302 in allotments to each county based on the number of individuals living in households with incomes at or below the federal poverty level as determined by the comptroller of the treasury. Except as provided in subsection (d), the department shall annually spend or allocate the full amount of the allotment to each county through new or existing programs that utilize funds from the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program.

(c) If the department of human services is unable to spend or dedicate the funds allocated to a county pursuant to subsection (b), then the department shall reserve the unallocated funds for up to three (3) years to be spent in that county.

(d) The department of human services shall annually request and accept proposals from nonprofit and local governmental entities in each county for the provision of qualified assistance to individuals and families who are eligible to receive funds from the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program pursuant to subsection (b). If the department is unable to spend or dedicate the full allotment to a county because of

an absence of qualified providers in that county, then the department, working with local governmental officials and nonprofits, shall develop a plan for spending or dedicating the full allotment, including any unallocated amount from the previous three (3) years due to an absence of qualified providers.

(e) If there are additional administrative costs associated with administering this section, then the department of human services shall use funds from the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program to pay for those costs to the extent permitted by federal law.

71-1-304. Surplus spend-down for fiscal year 2021.

(a)

(1) For fiscal year 2021 the department of human services shall dedicate seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000) from the department's existing surplus reserve of funds from the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program to the department of health for the provision of evidence-based home visiting services over a period of three (3) years. The allotment of the funds to be used by the department of health in each county must adhere to the requirements in § 71-1-303(b), (c), and (d).

(2) The department of health shall request and consider grant proposals, and make grant awards to qualified providers for evidence-based models and for innovations on evidence-based models, such as those using telehealth interventions and strategies for families with newborns that can improve program reach and effectiveness.

(3) The department of health shall use funds from the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program that are allocated to the department of health's administration and that are not included in the seventy-five

million-dollar dedication as described in subdivision (a)(1), to contract with a qualified, third-party evaluator to design and implement an evaluation of all home visiting programs funded by the dedication described in subdivision (a)(1) to include an analysis of outcomes for families served as well as costs per outcome for each program.

(b)

(1) The department of human services shall dedicate one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) from the department's existing reserve of funds from the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program for the provision of before school, after school, summer, holiday care, and wrap-around services for eligible children and families.

(2) The providers of the before school, after school, summer, holiday care, and wrap-around services must incorporate into those services a literacy education component as approved by the department of education in order to receive funds pursuant to subdivision (b)(1).

(3) The allotment of the funds to be used by the department of human services in each county must adhere to the requirements in § 71-1-303.

(4) The department of human services shall use funds from the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program that are not included in the one hundred million-dollar dedication pursuant to subdivision (b)(1) to contract with a qualified, third-party evaluator to design and implement an evaluation of programs funded by the dedication described in subdivision (b)(1) to include an analysis of outcomes, including literacy outcomes for children and families served as well as costs per outcome for each program.

71-1-305. Joint report to general assembly.

The department of human services and department of health shall compile a report by January 31, 2021, and each January 31 thereafter, on the manner in which the funds described in this part were spent, how much of the funds remain in any reserve, how much of the funds were spent on administrative costs and a detailed accounting of those costs, the allotments made to the counties pursuant to this part, the number of individuals and families served by county pursuant to this part, and the outcomes and costs per outcome for the programs to which funds were spent according to this part. The department of human services and department of health shall make a joint presentation to the appropriate committees of the house of representatives, as determined by the speaker of the house of representatives, and the senate, as determined by the speaker of the senate, by January 31, 2021, and each January 31 thereafter, on the report.

SECTION 2. The headings to sections in this act are for reference purposes only and do not constitute a part of the law enacted by this act. However, the Tennessee Code Commission is requested to include the headings in any compilation or publication containing this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.